

July 25, 2017 CAC Meeting – Roundtable Notes and Responses

Northern Ponds

- Have the up-gradient sources of debris in the watershed been evaluated? Have the catch basins been examined?
 - *The watersheds, piping system and channels have been delineated and the flows evaluated. Debris and floatables in the Mill Creek segment and at outfalls have been observed during both dry conditions and rain events.*
- What will be the cost of maintaining the debris collector be, and who will be responsible for the maintenance and costs? Proper maintenance will be key to the systems success.
 - *Parks, as part of their agreement with GOSR, will be responsible for the operations and maintenance of the debris collectors. Cost estimates incorporate fluctuations depending the number of collection events required per year based on the rain events. Management of the system will include maintenance, rental equipment and services, roll-offs, trucking, and disposal.*
- There was a trash catchment system on the ponds in the past. Will the new system be located at the same place?
 - *The proposed system will be located near where the creek enters the NE pond and the floatables are deposited. This system is being engineered to accommodate the flow volumes into the pond.*
- At the trash collector location, what type of bridge crossing will be installed?
 - *The crossing will be a timber bridge that is designed to accommodate small emergency vehicles.*
- What will be the net gain/loss of each wetland type when the project is implemented? Will one wetland type be exchanged for another (e.g. open water exchanged for emergent)?
 - *See the attached Table for Land Use changes for the CA North Ponds Project.*
- What will the level of the water be in the northwest pond after the dam is restored? Will existing wetland areas be flooded and turned into open water? These wetland areas are critical for various bird species.
 - *Per prior LKB email response, the water surface elevation will increase between 1' to 2' with the replacement of the Northwest Pond Dam which will have a spillway elevation of 21. The current water surface is between elevations 19 and 20 because of the breach in the Northwest Pond dam. The area is not designed to be flooded.*

- Will the main lake be dredged? It needs dredging because there is accumulated sediment that decrease the volume of the Lake and it ability to hold flood waters.
 - No. See response under Dams, Bridges and Gatehouses.
- Is the NYSDEC involved in review of the plans for the wetland modifications?
 - Yes, the NYSDEC has been in ongoing meetings, site visits and discussions on the project. The DEC conducted the north ponds wetland delineation for the project.
- Fish habitat will require waters of greater depth. What is being done for fish?
 - Fish currently inhabit the area. The NE Pond has adequate water depths for fish habitat. Because the NW pond is not as deep, an area of dredge to increase pond depth and improve habitat is proposed in the surface water segment of the pond. This will increase the area for overwintering and improve habitat during drought periods.
- Having an access route to the pond area directly from the high school will be a mistake, for safety and security reasons.
 - There is no direct access proposed.
- Restoration of the northeast and northwest ponds will be a great improvement to the overall park because of the deteriorated condition of those area at present.
- Facilities that result in too much use of the pond areas will be too intense and could result in impacts to the environmental and wildlife there.
 - There is currently no significant additional public use of the North ponds site proposed beyond the additional pedestrian wetland trail around NE pond.

Environmental Education and Resiliency Center

- View to the lake? Is this going to require the cutting of trees, if so how many?
 - There is a large stand of existing trees between the proposed building and lake that will not be removed and therefore the view will be partial depending on the season.
- How many trees are being removed for the building?
 - There will be 5 trees removed and will be replaced with 10 trees.
- How many trees were lost during hurricane sandy in the park?
 - Approximately 500.
- Wildlife friendly glass brought up.
 - Bird friendly glass was not recommended for this application due to the limited amount of glazing as well as the overhangs located at a majority of the windows.



- Traffic issue. Dangerous area, the public was concerned with the number of visitors the Center might bring, such as school buses. They inquired if a traffic study and parking study have been made. It was noted that Traffic is very bad coming off exit 18 of the southern state.
 - *A traffic study was performed for one week on Lakeside Drive which included types of vehicles, speeds, and times of the day to estimate peak volumes. We are proposing traffic calming devices on the roadway (speed tables) as well as solar powered signs and lights. All proposed calming will be within park boundaries.*
- Inquiry on the occupancy of the building and projected expectancy of public usage.
 - *The Education and Resiliency Center occupancy is 111 occupants which includes 32 occupants on the Overlook Deck (occupancy calculations are based on the NYS Building Code).*
- Location of the building was questioned. The public feels they are losing 4,000s.f. of open lawn area. How is this being mitigated, is paving being taken out somewhere else to make up for this? The use of existing parking area for the building location was suggested.
 - *The building footprint was kept to a minimum for the program spaces. Also, no additional parking was provided for the new building, the existing field 1 parking lot will be modified to provide parking. There is other open space and recreation areas in the 520+ acre Park.*
- The public requested a park masterplan and how this building fits in this scope.
 - *No master plan has been developed for Hempstead Lake State Park.*
- The public questioned who came up with the idea for the building and the point of the building in general.
 - *The purpose of the building is to provide a central focal point for resilience functions, resiliency education, community emergency response and the greenway entrance while building the social resiliency of the surrounding communities thru education.*
- They claimed there were turtle nests and wildlife currently utilizing the space being disturbed.
 - *No.*
- It was suggested that the observation pavilion be moved north to view birds at the northern portion of Hempstead Lake.

- *The proposed observation pavilion will provide views to the north and south of the lake through the existing tree canopy.*

Dams, Bridges, and Gatehouse

- Why is there no dredging taking place in Hempstead Lake? There is 6' feet of polluted sediment and the surface is covered with invasive species which if removed would improve water quality.
 - *Dredging is not proposed in Hempstead Lake. From a recent bathymetric survey, there is moderate sediment near the inlet of the lake and the outlet of the lake (1'-2') but the vast majority of the lake has less than 6 inches of sediment. The water body described above may be Smith Pond which contains the most sediment and invasive species cover.*
- Wouldn't the dredging of Hempstead Lake also increase flood storage?
 - *The lake bottom elevation is below the elevation of groundwater. Removing material from the bottom of the lake will not increase flood storage as the material removed will be replaced with groundwater. During storm events this additional "storage" will already be occupied by the groundwater.*
- Why are trees being removed from the dams? Don't the tree roots help hold the soil together?
 - *NYSDEC dam regulations prohibit the presence of woody vegetation on the upstream and downstream embankments of a dam as well as on the crest of a dam. The tree roots provide a path for water to travel through the dam creating the possibility for a piping failure of the dam very rapidly releasing the impounded water downstream.*
- How will replacing the gates in the Hempstead Lake Gatehouse improve the flow of water?
 - *The 5 sluice gates at the Hempstead Lake Dam gatehouse are currently frozen/rusted shut and are inoperable. There are holes cut in two of the gates to provide outlet flow from the lake. Replacing the 5 gates will allow the lake water levels to be actively managed with outflow to be increased or decreased through the operation of the gates.*
- What is the current elevation of groundwater and how is it monitored?
 - *There are several groundwater wells in the vicinity of Hempstead Lake State Park monitored by USGS. Current ground water elevations range from elevation 24.5 near the north ponds to elevation 16.6 near the Hempstead Lake Dam.*

Greenway, Gateways, and Waterfront Access

- No horses with people on same trails. A gentleman said it would be dangerous.
 - *In the current trail design guidelines from NYS Parks, horses and other users are permitted. Currently, horses and other users safely share the trail system in HLSP.*
- A gentleman also kept repeating that the horse stables and riders were against the improvement.
 - *We have been in regular contact with the stable owner regarding the improvements and for his input.*
- Do not improve trail surfaces. What survey of park users requested the trail improvements?
 - *The new surfacing is needed for improved safety, usability, and resiliency.*
- Do nothing because it will bring in people.
 - *Part of the LWTB goals and objectives includes improvements to Waterfront Access and Social Resiliency. The proposed improvements respond directly to those goals making the park more accessible.*
- Improvements will bring more people into the park that are not from the area using a local resource.
 - *Part of the LWTB goals and objectives includes improvements to Waterfront Access and Social Resiliency. The proposed improvements respond directly to those goals making the park more accessible.*
- No additional development or people.
 - *Part of the LWTB goals and objectives includes improvements to Waterfront Access and Social Resiliency. The proposed improvements respond directly to those goals.*
- Who will be policing the park?
 - *New York State Park Police and local police as dispatched. Coordination is underway with Nassau County Police to increase presence in and around the park.*
- Goal of the project was to double dip the public pockets. With the park charging, and charging more, after improvements.
 - *Fee increases are not anticipated.*
- Would ATV be allowed?
 - *No. Only for emergency use.*
- How many trees will be taken down for the trail?
 - *None.*

- Traffic is already an issue. Upset about bringing more people and more cars.
 - *We are proposing traffic calming devices on the roadway (speed tables) as well as solar powered signs and lights. All proposed calming will be within park boundaries.*
- Education center has no additional parking.
 - *Existing parking fields will accommodate visitors. The major use will be off-peak during the week day, so not a conflict with the high use of the weekend.*
- How and why are we building the center here? This will cause taking trees, bringing in more people into the park causing crowding.
 - *The proposed Education and Resiliency Center is centrally located adjacent to parking field one and in its proposed location will have the least environmental impact.*
- Why is the Ed center being funded by storm money?
 - *Part of the LWTB goals and objectives includes Public Education. The proposed Education and resiliency Center will provide various types of environmental and resiliency education along with providing centralized location for the Nassau County Police Explores.*
- Loop trail north of the SSP, will this be built?
 - *The northern trail along the golf course is not part of the proposed improvements.*
- Add speed bumps. Traffic calming measures will be incorporated into the project planning.
 - *We are proposing traffic calming devices on the roadway (speed tables) as well as solar powered signs and lights. All proposed calming will be within park boundaries.*
- Need access from neighborhoods. There is no way to get in. Additional access points to the Park will be formalized.
 - *Improved access for surrounding neighborhoods is included in the project planning.*
- Provide plants for wildlife.
 - *Native plantings with a focus on wildlife is included in the project planning.*
- Why bring recreation into the park and area?
 - *Recreational opportunities exist at the Park now, such as, hiking, picnicking and fishing.*
- Glad the historic pipe is being saved.
- Where is the study and survey that we did? What did we use as a Guideline?

**NY STATE PARKS - HEMPSTEAD LAKE STATE PARK
WEST HEMPSTEAD, NY**



- *National Parks Service.*
- Trail improvements will reduce the natural look/feel of the park.
 - *The proposed trail improvements are designed to have the least amount of impact to the existing feel and look of the park while improving safety for all users.*
- All improvements will reduce wildlife.
 - *The project elements are planned incorporating habitat conservation and enhancement.*
- Trails for multi-use will be a detriment to the natural wildlife, look, and feel of the park.
 - *The proposed trail improvements are designed to have the least amount of impact to the existing feel and look of the park while improving safety for all users.*
- Why is the resiliency project for stormwater control?
 - *Part of the goals and objectives for LWTB include Resilience including tidal surge and extreme storm events. The proposed improvements at HLSP will provide stormwater management and water quality to follow the program.*
- What is included with trail improvements/widening?
 - *Trail improvements include resurfacing and minor widening and grading to reduce washout and provide clearances for various trail users.*
- Security?
 - *New York State Parks Police as well as Nassau County will be involved in park security and police presence.*
- Widening and trail improvements should follow NYSP trail standards and ADA
 - *Those are the guidelines we are following.*
- Drainage improvements for trail.
 - *Yes. Part of the trail improvements are for drainage improvements to reduce washout.*

Observed Vegetated Wetlands

Table 2. Overall Area Modifications Based on Proposed Project Actions (in acres)

Land Use	Current Acreage	Acreage after Project Completion	Net Change (+/-)
Roads, etc.	0	0.32	0.32
Forested	36.82	32.18	-4.64
Meadow, Grasslands	4.50	9.63	5.13
Agric	0	0	0
Pond Surface Water	33.44	24.32	-9.12
Observed Vegetated Wetlands	20.93	25.83	4.91
Non-vegetated	2.01	0	-2.01
Sediment Basins	0	4.02	4.02
Trails	0.60	2.00	1.40
<i>Total</i>	<i>98.30</i>	<i>98.30</i>	<i>0</i>

Table 3. Wetlands Area Modifications Based on Proposed Project Actions (in acres)

Observed Vegetated Wetlands					
	Current Vegetated Wetlands Acreage	Wetlands Removed	Proposed New Vegetated Wetlands	Non-Impacted Wetlands	Total After Proposed Actions
Emergent NW Pond	16.29	0.55	0.27	15.74	16.01
Emergent NE Pond	2.20	0.24	7.10	1.96	9.06
Shrub Red Maple NE Pond	2.44	1.67	0	0.77	0.77
<i>Total Vegetated Wetlands</i>	<i>20.93</i>	<i>2.46</i>	<i>7.37</i>	<i>18.47</i>	<i>25.84</i>
Observed Pond Wetlands					
	Current Pond Aquatic Acreage	Surface Water Removed	Proposed Aquatic Pond	Total After Proposed Actions	Total To Become Upland
NW Pond	13.71	0	0	13.71	0
NE Pond	19.73	9.12	7.1	10.61	2.02
<i>Total Pond Wetlands</i>	<i>33.44</i>	<i>9.12</i>	<i>7.1</i>	<i>24.32</i>	<i>2.02</i>